

ABSTRACT

An apparatus for treating pneumothorax and/or hemothorax that does not require the assembly of parts and can be used by medical personnel with minimal experience and training in treating these conditions. The apparatus comprises a trocar obturator unit comprising a stylet having a point for puncturing the chest or other body cavity, and a stopper integrally attached to the stylet. The catheter assembly is comprised of a tube dimensioned to receive the stylet and a hub integrally attached to the distal end of the catheter assembly for receiving the stopper. The one-way valve composed of a pliable material covers the hub. The lumen of the one-way valve is continuous with the lumens of the tube and the hub of the catheter assembly. The trocar obturator unit also includes a pull handle for safely removing the trocar obturator unit from the catheter assembly in accordance with the method of the invention.